AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (previously presented) An electronic keyboard instrument comprising:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external

sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented) An electronic keyboard instrument defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first arcuate keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first position such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second arcuate keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with the first and oriented in a fashion generally opposite to that of the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

each of the first and second arcuate keyboards being characterized by keys of continuously varying length, the keys being generally longer at the respective keyboard ends and shorter at the respective keyboard center so as to define an arcuate shape and, thereby, enhance user operation;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented) A floating key assembly for a keyboard instrument, the assembly comprising:

a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key;

a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and

at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key.